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# DOVES

## Domestic Violence Education & Services

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[www.doveslakecounty.org](http://www.doveslakecounty.org)

March 21, 2007

In reference to:

SENATE BILL NO. 350

A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT CREATING THE OFFENSE OF CRIMINAL DESTRUCTION OF OR TAMPERING WITH A COMMUNICATION DEVICE; AND PROVIDING PENALTIES."

As the Executive Director of a Crime Victim Advocate organization serving victims of domestic violence, sexual assault and stalking in Lake County, it is crystal clear to me how very important it is for the people who need our services to be able to access us by phone, 24 hours a day. It can literally mean the difference between life and death.

Victims of domestic violence are often people who live in isolated areas, and their only access to the outside world is the phone. And because they are in abusive situations, with a violent and out-of-control person they are dealing with, we advocates all-too-often hear that a phone was pulled out of the wall or destroyed while the victim was desperately trying to seek help.

A highly-respected member of the Lake County Sheriff's Office recently said to me, "if there is a question of to who to arrest in a domestic dispute, I always say: arrest the one who broke the phone."

Not only should that person be arrested, but also charged with the serious crime of criminal destruction of or tampering with a communication device.

I thank you for your time and consideration.

Jenifer Blumberg  
Executive Director

